

**Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and Emergency Preparedness**
State of Louisiana

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Update: State Continues Response to Historic Flood Event

BATON ROUGE (March 14, 2016) – The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) continues to coordinate the state's response to the current historic flood event. New reports supplied by parishes indicate 6,143 structures have received flood damage across the state. The total is expected to climb as more parishes compile data. New problems are still being reported in some regions as river levels continue to climb. The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) has indicated portions of Interstate 10 and Interstate 59 may be closed in south Louisiana and south Mississippi due to rising water. Emergency officials say other flood related problems could develop on Interstate 10 near the Texas border. Dozens of other roadways remain closed because of standing water. State agencies manning the State Emergency Operations Center continue round the clock work to meet requests for resources from parishes impacted by the floods. The National Weather Service forecast for Louisiana includes a chance for more rain and thunderstorms in some areas later this week. Thousands of rescues have been reported since Wednesday, including 4,255 by the Louisiana National Guard and 700 by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Governor John Bel Edwards announced Sunday that the federal government declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana. The initial federal declaration is for Bossier, Claiborne, Grant, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and Webster Parishes. Additional parish declarations will likely be made as further damage assessments are conducted.

Federal Declarations and Types of Assistance available:

- **INDIVIDUAL ASSISTANCE** - (Assistance to individuals and households):
The parishes of Bossier, Claiborne, Grant, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and Webster.

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- **PUBLIC ASSISTANCE** - (Assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities):
The parishes of Bossier, Claiborne, Grant, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, and Webster for debris removal and emergency protective measures (Categories A and B), including direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program.
- **HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM** - (Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long term risk to life and property from natural hazards):
All areas in the State of Louisiana are eligible to apply for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

FEMA will deploy Disaster Survivor Assistance Teams to support the registration of individuals for the Individual Assistance Grant program. Individuals may also register on the web or by phone as follows:

www.disasterassistance.gov

1-800-621-3362

TTY: 1-800-462-7585

We urge everyone to continue to use caution in areas where floodwaters remain. Monitor DOTD's www.511la.org website for updated road closure information. Look for advisories from your local authorities and emergency managers.

You can find the latest information on the state's response at www.emergency.la.gov. GOHSEP also provides information on Facebook and Twitter.

You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. You can also download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.

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